

St. Joseph School District Hit with New Allegations of Misusing Taxpayer Money and Violating Election Law

SAINT JOSEPH – With election day coming and voters deciding the fate of the largest tax increase in St. Joe history, the St. Joseph School District has been hit with new allegations of misusing taxpayer money by creating expensive videos and mailers promoting Proposition 1.

Today, Chris Green, a small business owner and former educator, filed complaints with the Missouri Secretary of State and Missouri Ethics Commission against the St. Joseph School District. “As a taxpayer and former teacher, I find it extremely troubling that a district which is deficit spending is illegally using taxpayers’ dollars to advocate for the passage of this tax.”

Missouri law prohibits using taxpayer dollars to support the passage of a ballot measure, such expenditures are a clear violation under section 115.646, RSMo.

“The school district is using taxpayer money to try to pass the largest tax increase in district history. It appears to me that district officials are willing to cross any line to get the money they want, even if it means using corrupt tactics,” states Mr. Green. “The fact that administrators continue to waste tax dollars promoting their agenda instead of focusing on teachers and students in the classroom is very unsettling.”

The complaints focus on the fact that the St. Joseph School District is paying for direct mail pieces targeting registered voters. These mailers do not merely inform the public, they are attempting to persuade voters to support Proposition 1. In addition to the direct mail pieces, the School District is also actively promoting the passage of Proposition 1 on its taxpayer-funded website and Facebook. It appears that the School District is using social media “sponsored posts” (which require paying Facebook). Perhaps most egregiously, the District is also taking campaign TV ads, editing them to take out the word “yes” at the end, and then paying to promote the ads on social media. It is unknown how much taxpayer money is being misappropriated.

The St. Joseph School District has shown a pattern of mismanaging taxpayer dollars that began with receiving the worst grade from a state auditor of any school district in the history of Missouri. These allegations are especially troubling as they come at a time when the St. Joseph School District is deficit spending while simultaneously asking for the largest tax increase in St. Joe history with no sunset clause.

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(Copies of complaints attached)

Elections Complaint Form

Missouri Secretary of State's Office

Note: if you believe you have witnessed a violation of Title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 for federal elections, please fill out a Title III of HAVA Elections Complaint Form.

Name Chris Green
Address 617 Tanglewood St.
County Buchanan
Phone (816) 232-0832
Email chrisgreenoffice@yahoo.com
My complaint pertains to the Election held on 11-7-2017

I have or will file a complaint with (check all that apply):

Missouri Attorney General's Office	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Missouri Ethics Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Local Election Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Local Law Enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

My complaint is regarding (check one):

- ☐ Absentee voting
- ☐ Candidate Qualifications
- ☐ Voting
- ☐ Election Judge Misconduct
- ☐ Improper Voter Registration
- ☒ Other Election law violation official misconduct pursuant to section 115.646, RSMo

State the facts of the alleged violation including:

- **The name and mailing address of the person or persons alleged to have committed the violation; and**
- **A description of the act or acts you believe to be a violation.**

The St. Joseph, Missouri School District is wasting taxpayer dollars to advocate for passage of a significant tax increase on the November 7, 2017 ballot. The mailing address of the St. Joseph School District, its Superintendent Robert Newhart, and its Communications Director Brittany Blevins is 925 Felix, Saint Joseph, MO 64501. The School District is paying for direct mail advertisements, targeted to registered voters, rather than the public at large. See Exhibits 1 and 2. These direct mail advertisements do not merely inform the public. Under the guise of "Important Facts," the School District is making political arguments and other statements of opinion in favor of Proposition 1.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Signature of person filing complaint	Date
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*Return this form to:
Missouri Secretary of State's Office
Attn: Elections Division
600 W Main St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101*

Statement of Supplemental Facts

The School District's political arguments in their advertisements include, but are not limited to:

- “Proposition 1 will keep our schools and community strong and focused on the future”;
- “Proposition 1 would properly fund the St. Joseph School District”;
- “Proposition 1 is a fiscally responsible solution to avoid damaging reductions”; and
- “Proposition 1 is an affordable investment in our schools that gives our kids a fair chance to compete for jobs or higher education and helps move our community forward.”

The mailers also contain numerous statements of opinion, including statements regarding the effect of increased school funding on the number of jobs in the community, the quality of teachers, and what needs are “critical.”

The School District is also actively promoting the passage of Proposition 1 on its taxpayer-funded website (Exhibits 3-6) and Facebook (Exhibit 7). It appears that the School District is using social media “sponsored posts” (which require paying Facebook). Perhaps most egregiously, the District is also taking campaign TV ads, editing them to take out the word “yes” at the end, and then paying to promote the ads on social media. It is unknown how much public money is being misappropriated.

Citizens of St. Joseph deserve a School District that works for students and working families—the taxpayers—not just well-paid administrators. The Citizens of St. Joseph also deserve to make up their own minds regarding whether they support a double digit tax increase for more school funding. School administrators have a duty to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. Using taxpayer dollars to support the passage of a ballot measure is an illegal expenditure under section 115.646, RSMo.

These acts show that school administrators in St. Joseph still have not learned their lessons.



OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FORM

Missouri Ethics Commission
PO Box 1370
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1370

Section 105.957, RSMo states that the Commission shall receive any complaints alleging violations of the provisions of:

- 1) The requirements imposed on lobbyists by section 105.470 to 105.478;
- 2) The financial interest disclosure requirements contained in sections 105.483 to 105.492;
- 3) The campaign finance disclosure requirements contained in chapter 130, RSMo;
- 4) Any code of conduct promulgated by any department, division or agency of state government, or by state institutions of higher education, or by executive order;
- 5) The conflict of interest laws contained in sections 105.450 to 105.467 and section 171.181, RSMo; and
- 6) The provisions of the constitution or state statute or order, ordinance or resolution of any political subdivision relating to the official conduct of officials or employees of the state and political subdivisions.

This complaint shall contain all the facts known to the person bringing the complaint that give rise to the complaint.

This complaint shall be sworn to under penalty of the crime of perjury.

Within 5 days of receipt of this complaint, the Commission will send a copy of this complaint, including the name of the person bringing this complaint, to the person, organization or campaign committee against whom the complaint is brought.

Note: According to Missouri State Law, the Commission shall dismiss any complaint which is frivolous in nature, as lacking any basis in fact or law. Any person who submits a frivolous complaint shall be liable for actual and compensatory damages to the alleged violator for holding the alleged violator before the public in a false light. A finding by the Commission that a complaint is frivolous or without probable cause shall be a public record.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY MAIL OR HAND-DELIVERED. FAXED COPIES OR EMAILS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

PART 1 - PERSON BRINGING COMPLAINT:

NAME: <u>Eldon C Green</u>		DATE OF COMPLAINT: <u>10/31/2017</u>	
ADDRESS: <u>617 Tanglewood Dr</u>			
CITY: <u>St. Joseph</u>	STATE: <u>MO</u>	COUNTY: <u>Buchanan</u>	ZIP: <u>64506</u>
CONTACT PHONE NUMBER/S: (HOME) <u>816-232-0832</u>	(WORK) <u>same</u>	(CELL) <u>same</u>	
TITLE OF OFFICE HELD OR SOUGHT (IF APPLICABLE): <u>N/A</u>			

PART 2 - ORGANIZATION OR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND INDIVIDUAL(S) OR POSITION(S) AGAINST WHOM

THIS COMPLAINT IS BEING BROUGHT AGAINST:

NAME: <u>St. Joseph School District & Robert Newhart, Superintendent & Bridget Blevins, Director of Communications</u>			
ADDRESS: <u>925 Felix</u>			
CITY: <u>Saint Joseph</u>	STATE: <u>MO</u>	COUNTY: <u>Buchanan</u>	ZIP: <u>64501</u>
CONTACT PHONE NUMBER/S: (HOME) <u>816-671-4000</u>	(WORK) <u>816-671-4000</u>		
TITLE OF OFFICE HELD OR SOUGHT (IF APPLICABLE):			

DATE OF ELECTION (IF APPLICABLE): 11/7/17

CHECK ELECTION TYPE (IF APPLICABLE):
☐ Primary ☐ General

VERIFICATION BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION

STATE OF MISSOURI
COUNTY OF Buchanan

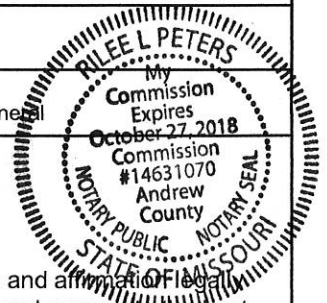
I, Eldon C Green, being duly sworn upon oath and affirmation administered, certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing information in this complaint is complete, true, and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Eldon C Green
Signature of Complainant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31 day of October, 2017.

My Commission Expires: 10/27/18

[Signature]
Notary Public



PART 3 - STATEMENT OF FACTS:

State in your own words the detailed facts and the actions of the candidate or organization named in part two which prompted you to make this complaint. The space provided below is not intended to limit your statement of facts. Please use additional sheets if necessary. Include relevant dates and times, and the names and addresses of other persons whom you believe have knowledge of the facts and attach hereto copies of any documentary evidence that supports the facts alleged in the complaint.

Please check the box next to the area that the complaint concerns.

- ☐ 1. The requirements imposed on lobbyists by sections 105.470 to 105.478.
- ☐ 2. The financial interest disclosure requirements contained in sections 105.483 to 105.492.
- ☒ 3. The campaign finance disclosure requirements contained in chapter 130, RSMo.
- ☐ 4. Any code of conduct promulgated by any department, division or agency of state government, or by state institution of higher education, or by executive order.
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- ☒ 6. The provisions of the constitution or state statute or order, ordinance or resolution of any political subdivision relating to the official conduct of officials or employees of the state and political subdivisions.

PLEASE STATE THE FACTS BELOW:

Please see attached.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

- ☐ YES Are any of the matters alleged by you the subject of civil or criminal litigation? If yes, please provide
☒ NO the county and case number if known by you.

Statement of Facts

The St. Joseph, Missouri School District is wasting taxpayer dollars to advocate for passage of a significant tax increase on the November 7, 2017 ballot. See Exhibits 1 and 2. These direct mail advertisements do not merely inform the public. Under the guise of "Important Facts," the School District is making political arguments and other statements of opinion in favor of Proposition 1. The School District's political arguments in their advertisements include, but are not limited to:

- "Proposition 1 will keep our schools and community strong and focused on the future";
- "Proposition 1 would properly fund the St. Joseph School District";
"Proposition 1 is a fiscally responsible solution to avoid damaging reductions"; and
- "Proposition 1 is an affordable investment in our schools that gives our kids a fair chance to compete for jobs or higher education and helps move our community forward."

The mailers also contain numerous statements of opinion, including statements regarding the effect of increased school funding on the number of jobs in the community, the quality of teachers, and what needs are "critical."

The mailers violate the Campaign Finance Disclosure Law because they do not contain a "Paid for by" disclaimer, as required under chapter 130, RSMo.

The School District is also actively promoting the passage of Proposition 1 on its taxpayer-funded website (Exhibits 3-6) and Facebook (Exhibit 7). It appears that the School District is using social media "sponsored posts" (which require paying Facebook). Perhaps most egregiously, the District is also taking campaign TV ads, editing them to take out the word "yes" at the end, and then paying to promote the ads on social media. It is unknown how much public money is being misappropriated. None of these materials contain a "Paid for by" disclaimer, as required under chapter 130, RSMo.

Citizens of St. Joseph deserve a School District that works for students and working families—the taxpayers—not just well-paid administrators. The Citizens of St. Joseph also deserve to make up their own minds regarding whether they

support a double digit tax increase for more school funding. School administrators have a duty to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars. Using taxpayer dollars to support the passage of a ballot measure is an illegal expenditure under section 115.646, RSMo.

These acts show that school administrators in St. Joseph still have not learned their lessons.

St. Joseph School District

Important Facts About Proposition 1 and the Plan to Move Forward



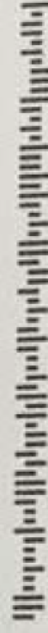
Remember to
Vote November 7

Forward
with
1VISION
SJSD



ST. JOSEPH
SCHOOL DISTRICT
925 Felix • Saint Joseph, MO 64501

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EXHIBIT

2

exhibitmaker.com

Facts About Proposition 1

FACT 1 Proposition 1 was developed by the community.

Proposition 1 was recommended by *One Vision*, a community-led effort involving hundreds of St. Joseph residents that began in 2016 and continued in 2017. After months of educational improvement studies, the feedback throughout the process was given to a district-wide citizen task force that recommended needed financial improvements to the Board of Education which resulted in Proposition 1 being placed on the ballot to address critical needs and financial support.

FACT 2 Proposition 1 will keep our schools and community strong and focused on the future.

If approved, Proposition 1 would properly fund the St. Joseph School District. A financially stable district helps provide a high-quality school system that will attract families to St. Joseph schools and businesses to our community. The plan recommended by *One Vision* will:

- Eliminate a projected budget deficit
- Retain and attract quality teachers
- Maintain and lower class sizes
- Continue HVAC projects
- Expand the use of technology for all students
- Support current educational programs
- Secure property values for district residents
- Provide an estimated \$11.5 million annually to the district



FACT 3 Proposition 1 is a fiscally responsible solution to avoid damaging reductions.

Proposition 1 is a \$1.15 tax levy to restore the tax levy amount needed to support the educational programs of the St. Joseph School District and give our students a chance to compete. Proposition 1 will do two things to restore the district's tax rate to a pre-2015 level and eliminate the Proposition C Rollback Waiver bringing an estimated \$11.5 million to the district each year. By balancing the budget, the district can move forward and avoid serious reductions to the educational programs in our schools.

For current taxes, this means the average annual increase would be approximately \$14.50 per month for the owner of an \$80,000 home. Compared to the 2014 tax bill, Proposition 1 is a rate increase of \$0.52 and is a monthly increase of approximately \$6.50.

FACT 4 Proposition 1 will provide for quality staff and up-to-date technology.

To reach their highest academic success, our students need the best teachers in our classrooms. Proposition 1 will provide the needed funding to ensure the district recruits and retains high quality teachers and other needed employees for our schools. Our students also need up-to-date technology to compete in the world today. Proposition 1 will provide \$1.5 million for implementation of a long-range technology plan, technology professional development, improved infrastructure and maintain the 1:1 initiative for student technology use.



After difficult years, Proposition 1 is an affordable investment in our schools that gives our kids a fair chance to compete for jobs or higher education and helps move our community forward.

The St. Joseph School District does not have adequate revenue to properly fund the district or its educational programs. Additional funding is needed to improve, and at the same time, protect the quality of our schools and neighborhoods. While recent years have been challenging for the district and our community, we've worked hard to restore responsible financial management and provide the best education for our children. Proposition 1 addresses the district's critical needs, provides funding support and ensures teachers and students have an environment conducive to innovative teaching and learning.



The Election Date is Tuesday, November 7.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2017. Thank you for learning more about Proposition 1. **EVERY SINGLE VOTE IS IMPORTANT** and your voice is needed to help every voter become better informed about plans to move the St. Joseph School District forward.

**Do You Have Additional Questions?
Please contact Ms. Bridget Blevins**

St. Joseph School District Communications Office

925 Felix • Saint Joseph, MO 64501

816-671-4000

bridgetblevins@sjpd.k12.mo.us



Home » Community » Proposition 1 » Home



Central Message Heard in One Vision Meetings

It is no secret that the St. Joseph School District has experienced some challenging times. But a sentiment heard time and time again, from those who participated in the One Vision Community Engagement Program, is that it is now time to move forward for our children — that we cannot allow past problems to harm the ability of our children to receive the education they deserve and need to be well-prepared for the workforce or for higher education.

That's why One Vision participants decided to place a proposal on the November 2017 ballot. If passed, this proposal would enable the district to:

- Avoid damaging cuts in staff and programs
- Improve early childhood education
- Balance the budget
- Provide a strong foundation for ongoing and needed improvements

The proposal calls for restoring the portion of the tax rate that was lowered from the sunset retiring three years and eliminating the Proposition C rollback (see our website for more information about this.) In total this is a \$1.15 increase, but only 52 cents more than the rate in 2014. That means the owner of a \$100,000 house will pay about \$1.90 more a week in taxes compared to 2014.

While One Vision participants evaluated an option calling for a higher amount — they opted for this more conservative approach at the current time.

A Proposal for Our District by Our People

The One Vision proposal is the result of hundreds of people attending community engagement meetings held throughout our district. A clear consensus was reached resulting from these meetings. Participants called for maintaining and improving the quality of education, eliminating deficit spending, and providing stable long term finances for the district with no sunset. We thank One Vision for the countless hours of work, high level of dedication, and a strong commitment to improving our schools and community.

NEWS RELEASE

SJSD Board Approves Tax Levy for November Election

(August 17, 2017) - Faced with ongoing projected annual budget deficits, the St. Joseph School District Board of Education unanimously voted on Monday, Aug. 14, to take the necessary steps to secure funding for the district's future by placing a proposal on the November 2017 ballot. The ballot issue is designed to provide the needed financial resources to eliminate future deficit spending and to provide quality education programs for all St. Joseph School District students.

The proposal was developed by the SJSD 1 Vision community engagement program that involved hundreds of St. Joseph residents. While the SJSD 1 Vision Task Force considered an option with a larger increase to address identified goals, a decision was reached to take a conservative first step to achieve these goals by restoring the tax rate to the pre-2015 level.

Two things will happen to restore the district's tax rate to a pre-2015 level. First, it reinstates the 63-cent decrease in the rate that occurred in 2015. Second, it eliminates the Proposition C Rollback Waiver.

Taken together, the proposal will restore the rate to the level prior to 2015 and allow the district

to collect the full amount without subjecting it to the Proposition C rollback. For current taxes, this means the average annual increase would be approximately \$14.50 per month for the owner of an \$80,000 home. Compared to the 2014 tax bill, it constitutes a monthly increase of approximately \$6.50.

Approval of this proposal will allow the district to eliminate a projected budget deficit, retain teaching positions, maintain low class sizes, expand the use of technology for all students and support the current educational programs.

"The November 2017 election is a commitment by the district to provide a high-quality, supportive education in a manner that is not excessive or burdensome for taxpayers," said St. Joseph Superintendent Dr. Robert

Newhart. "We must come together as a community and move forward to take the much-needed action to get the funding for our schools and for our students and staff."

The proposal requires a simple majority for approval.

[Home](#) » [Community](#) » [Proposition 1](#) » [Proposition 1 Fact Sheet](#)

PROPOSITION 1 FACT SHEET

[Download the Proposition 1 Fact Sheet here.](#)

[Download the Proposition 1 Fact Sheet here in Spanish.](#)

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Proposition 1 was recommended by *One Vision*, a community-led effort involving hundreds of St. Joseph residents that began in 2016 and continued in 2017. After months of educational improvement studies, the feedback throughout the process was given to a district-wide citizen task force that recommended needed financial improvements to the Board of Education which resulted in Proposition 1 being placed on the ballot to address critical needs and financial support.

FACT 2 Proposition 1 will keep our schools and community strong and focused on the future.

If approved, Proposition 1 would properly fund the St. Joseph School District. A financially stable district helps provide a high-quality school system that will attract families to St. Joseph schools and businesses to our community. The plan recommended by *One Vision* will:

- Eliminate a projected budget deficit
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FACT 3 Proposition 1 is a fiscally responsible solution to avoid damaging reductions.

Proposition 1 is a \$1.15 tax levy to restore the tax levy amount needed to support the educational programs of the St. Joseph School District and give our students a chance to compete. Proposition 1 will do two things to restore the district's tax rate to a pre-2015 level and eliminate the Proposition C Rollback Waiver bringing an estimated \$11.5 million to the district each year. By balancing the budget, the district can move forward and avoid serious reductions to the educational programs in



our schools. For current taxes, this means the average annual increase would be approximately \$14.50 per month for the owner of an \$80,000 home. Compared to the 2014 tax bill, Proposition 1 is a rate increase of \$0.52 and is a monthly increase of approximately \$6.50.

FACT 4 Proposition 1 will provide for quality staff and up-to-date technology.

To reach their highest academic success, our students need the best teachers in our classrooms. Proposition 1 will provide the needed funding to ensure the district recruits and retains high quality teachers and other needed employees for our schools. Our students also need up-to-date technology to compete in the world today. Proposition 1 will provide \$1.5 million for implementation of a long-range technology plan, technology professional development, improved infrastructure and maintain the 1:1 initiative for student technology use.

FACT 5 After difficult years, Proposition 1 is an affordable investment in our schools that gives our kids a fair chance to compete for jobs or higher education and helps move our community forward.

The St. Joseph School District does not have adequate revenue to properly fund the district or its educational programs. Additional funding is needed to improve, and at the same time, protect the quality of our schools and neighborhoods. While recent years have been challenging for the district and our community, we've worked hard to restore responsible financial management and provide the best education for our children. Proposition 1 addresses the district's critical needs, provides funding support and ensures teachers and students have an environment conducive to innovative teaching and learning.

FACT 6 The Election Date is Tuesday, November 7.

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Important Facts About Proposition 1 and the Plan to Move Forward

St. Joseph School District

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Forward with
SJSD
VISION

EXHIBIT

Important Facts About Proposition 1 and the Plan to Move Forward

St. Joseph School District

What has the district done to reduce costs?

The St. Joseph School District has reduced non-instructional operating expenses to maximize dollars for the classroom. Since July 1, 2015, the district has cut \$2.5 million from its operating expenses with the goal of making cuts as far away from our classroom teachers as possible. This includes reducing administrative and operations staff, eliminating instructional support positions, and reducing budgets for supplies and equipment.

We've also continued building improvements to save operations costs, such as replacing lighting fixtures in every building to save 19% on annual electric costs, replacing HVAC units to save on maintenance and repairing/replacing roofs to prevent leaks that could lead to additional expenses. The sale of surplus property also brought savings to the district.

The SJSD negotiated and competitively bid employee health insurance benefits to maintain costs at the same rates and same plan design over a thirty-month period through June 30, 2018 and provide continuous savings even through June 30, 2019 estimated at a \$3 million district savings.

What will Proposition 1 cost the average taxpayer?

For current taxes, voter approval of Proposition 1 means the average annual increase would be approximately \$3.34 per week or \$14.50 per month for the owner of an \$80,000 home. Compared to the 2014 tax bill, it constitutes a monthly increase of approximately \$6.50.

The following chart illustrates the impact the levy would have on property tax bills:

Home Value	Annual Cost	Monthly Cost	Weekly Cost	Daily Cost
\$80,000	\$174.00	\$14.50	\$3.34	\$0.47
\$100,000	\$218.50	\$18.20	\$4.20	\$0.60
\$150,000	\$327.75	\$27.31	\$6.30	\$0.90

What happens if Proposition 1 does not pass?

If Proposition 1 does not pass, the district will need to look at additional cost saving measures, which could include:

- ➔ Reduce operating expenses
- ➔ Reduce staffing and educational programs, which will adversely affect learning
- ➔ Reduce extracurricular activities
- ➔ Reduce building improvements and maintenance
- ➔ \$10 million budget reduction in 2018-19 and more from future budgets to balance the budget and maintain fund balances for cash flow purposes

When is the election?

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017. Proposition 1 requires a simple majority (50% + 1 for approval). Absentee voting begins on Sept. 26. Local residents may also request absentee ballots by visiting the Buchanan County Clerk's Office website, www.co.buchanan.mo.us/159/Absentee-Ballots

What is a tax levy increase?

A tax levy is the tax rate used to calculate the amount of property tax revenue the school district will receive. The rate is used in conjunction with the assessed value of property. For every \$100 dollars of assessed value the district receives the amount of the levy. The revenue can be used for any purpose, but is generally used for operating expenses.

Why should we do this work now and not wait until later?

The St. Joseph School District does not have adequate revenue to properly fund the district or its educational program. Additional funding is needed to improve, and at the same time, protect the quality of our schools and neighborhoods. While recent years have been challenging for the district and our community, we've worked hard to restore responsible financial management and provide the best education for our children. Proposition 1 addresses the district's funding needs now, and ensures teachers and students have an environment conducive to innovative teaching and learning going forward.

Beyond improving our schools, how will Proposition 1 help the St. Joseph community?

Improving the school district helps to keep neighborhoods strong and keeps property values up. Numerous studies have found a strong relationship between quality schools and property values.

Do You Have Additional Questions? Please contact Ms. Bridget Blevins

St. Joseph School District Communications Office
925 Felix • Saint Joseph, MO 64501
816-671-4000
bridgetblevins@sjd.k12.mo.us



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@stjosephschooldistrict

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**St. Joseph School District**

6 hrs ·

EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES → The Exploratorium, at Lindbergh Elementary, is the classroom of the future. It allows students to interact with technology and critical thinking in a hands-on way. This classroom includes a Lego wall, codable robots, video game design elements and electrical circuit activities to challenge student thinking and learning. Maintaining and improving the technology available to our students and teachers is part of the Proposition 1 plan. Learn more about the initiative, on the Nov. 7th ballot, here: <http://bit.ly/2usE87A>



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Comment

Jen Hosler, Danielle Webster, Bethany Deneen Roberts and 9 others like this.

[Top Comments](#)[1 Share](#)

Public School in Saint Joseph, Missouri

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www.sjsd.k12.mo.us

Public School

People

6,921 likes

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**Hy-Vee (Saint Joseph, MO)**

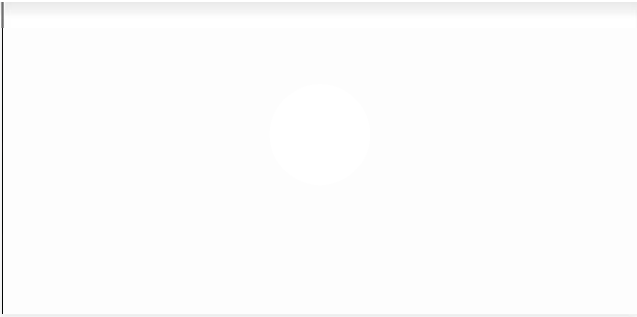
Grocery Store


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St. Joseph, MO

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4.5K Views

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Tamara Glise Norris, Mary Beth Revels, Jen Hosler and 58 others like this.




Top Comments

65 Shares

View all 25 comments

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Photos

85th out of 88

See All

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or

		61		69	
RT & Ron → Proposition 1		Jess & Paul → Learn the Fa...			
39		26		43	
				18	
See All					

Posts



St. Joseph School District

Yesterday at 5:00am ·

SJSD JOINS AIR FORCE BAND → Some top musicians from all 3 SJSD high schools were honored by an invitation to perform with musicians from the United States Air Force. Prop 1, on the ballot Nov 7th, will allow us to continue to support arts & extra curricular activities like this. [#SJSDForward](#) [#SJSDProud](#) Learn about Prop 1: <https://www.sjsd.k12.mo.us/Page/27545>



Like

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Terrence Harrington, Cindy Kohler, Penny De Jong and 59 others like this.

[Top Comments](#)

[17 Shares](#)

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**St. Joseph School District**

October 26 at 5:00pm ·

WE MUST MOVE FORWARD → "If we're going to change this city we have to start with our kids and a quality education really makes a big difference." Prop 1, on the ballot Nov 7th, will allow us to avoid cuts to classroom teachers and other employees. It will help keep class sizes small while adding 10 additional classroom teachers and staff to help with remedial reading & math, [#SJSDForward](#) [#SJSDProud](#) Learn about Prop 1: <https://www.sjsd.k12.mo.us/Page/27545>

6.1K Views

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Debbie McCamy, Judy Richmond, Jelena Hindery and 106 others like this. [Top Comments](#)

[70 Shares](#)

Barb Redmond Black I'm curious. How much did that tv ad during the World Series cost the kids? And the glossy yard signs and mailers? Assuming the measure does not pass, what budget item is going to be cut to pay for these advertisements?

[10](#) · October 26 at 9:29pm[17 Replies](#)

Valeri Whiting I'm sorry, but this school district will not be fixed by more money. You first need to employee teachers that actually care about our kids and their education and administration that does something about when you report a teacher who obviously doesn't.... [See More](#)

[9](#) · October 27 at 5:02am[View 26 more comments](#)**St. Joseph School District**

October 26 at 5:00am ·

SLICE OF RASPBERRY "PI" → Tiny, inexpensive computers, called a Raspberry Pi, that have high tech power for learning coding were recently delivered to 12 classrooms by SJSD's tech team. Prop 1, on the ballot Nov 7th, provides for increased professional development to help teachers integrate technology tools into the classroom and give our kids a fighting chance for competing for high tech jobs of the future. [#SJSDForward](#)

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3K Views

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Stacy Gondring Beshears, Jerry Grippando, Lorena Aparicio Anderson and 43 others like this.

[Top Comments](#)[28 Shares](#)

Mike McAllister Yes, we have to not only get caught up but stay caught up with the communities surrounding St. Joseph. I challenge anyone to travel outside our demographic and look at what school districts are paying for talent at every level and what they invest in ... [See More](#)

10 · October 26 at 2:42pm

[4 Replies](#)

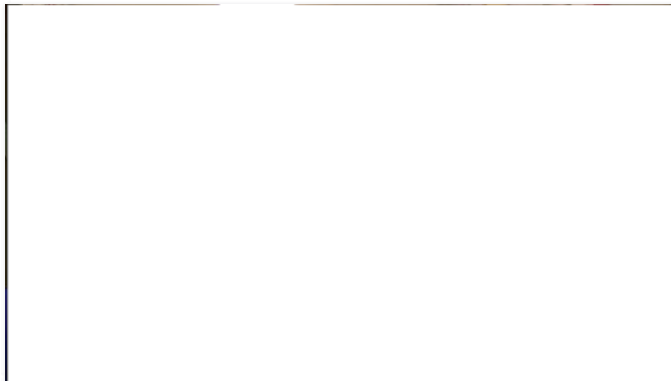
Steven Dill A raspberry pi 3 is \$35, a pi zero is \$5. How many could we have bought "for the kids" with the \$25,000 we are spending to hire another superintendent? The \$135,000 for his assistant? [#nomeansno](#)

5 · October 26 at 6:32am · Edited

[1 Reply](#)[View 9 more comments](#)**St. Joseph School District**

October 25 at 5:00pm ·

APPLE SEED GRANTS → 18 innovative classroom ideas will be funded by the SJSD Foundation with Apple Seed Grants. Teachers & staff submit their innovative ideas for consideration for the annually awarded grants. The SJSD Foundation is a 501(C)(3) charity that is funded by donations from our community & alumni. American Family Insurance has made generous donations, over the past several years, that provided for an increase in the number of grants awarded.



6.3K Views

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Samuel Moore, Linda Gaddie, Shauna Collier and 89 others like this.

[Top Comments](#)[18 Shares](#)**See more of St. Joseph School District on Facebook**

or

purchase basic supplies for their classrooms. Prop 1, on the ballot Nov 7th, will allow the district to move forward with providing additional funds for these basic classroom supplies instead of teachers having to personally pay for them. #SJSDForward #SJSDProud Learn about Prop 1: <https://www.sjkd.k12.mo.us/Page/27545>



Like Comment

Alice Clabé, Valerie Kuttler Fisher, Stacia Ann Studer and 103 others like this. [Top Comments](#)

41 Shares



I Love St. Joseph Missouri and Life In The Midwest Is there documentation on how many teachers use their own money? Curious.

5 · October 25 at 6:21am · Edited

[24 Replies](#)



Latisha Icke Little I find it ironic that people here who have commented on other posts saying they want to see the money go to students and teachers are now complaining when it's mentioned how this will help teachers. Some people just aren't happy unless they have a reason to complain. And no matter what facts are put out there those people will refuse to listen and be educated as it's just easier to complain.

18 · October 25 at 8:34am

[12 Replies](#)

[View 34 more comments](#)



St. Joseph School District

October 24 at 5:00pm ·

WE'RE 3RD FROM LAST → 85th out of 88, that's where the SJSD tax rate ranks compared to all school districts in NWMO. Prop 1, if adopted, will only rank the SJSD 44th out of 88. Recent claims by some residents about our tax rate are not accurate and it's important to know the truth as you become more informed about Prop 1, on the ballot Nov 7th. #SJSDForward #SJSDProud

LIST OF DISTRICTS - HIGHEST TO LOWEST TAX RATE:
Liberty 53
North Kansas City 74

See more of St. Joseph School District on Facebook

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[Like](#)[Comment](#)

Kyle Consolver, Becky Gillies, James Hosler and 48 others like this. [Top Comments](#)

57 Shares



David Freidel Vote NO! In the recent scandal they had over \$25 million missing from their account and didn't notice it for quite some time. Exactly how much money do you have to have to NOT notice \$25 million missing from your account? And how much are we spending o... [See More](#)

33 · October 25 at 7:43pm

[6 Replies](#) · 2 hrs



Lynn Lundin The SJSD just signed a contract to pay a company \$20,000 to find prospective candidates to fill the superintendents position. Were we the voters asked to approve this? More funding in their control will result in more actions like this. Vote no...

26 · October 25 at 4:02am

[27 Replies](#) · 2 hrs

[View more comments](#)



St. Joseph School District

October 24 at 5:00am ·

MORE SCHOOL LESS CRIME → We're all worried about the increase in crime in St. Joseph. Research shows providing good schools now means we will spend less on jails in the future. Prop 1, on the ballot Nov 7th avoids deep cuts to classroom teachers, keeping class sizes small, while adding staff for remedial reading & math intervention. [#SJSDForward](#) [#SJSDProud](#) Learn about Prop 1: <https://www.sjsd.k12.mo.us/Page/27545>



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44 Shares



Chad Lawhon Incorrect. Less single parent homes and people regardless of income actually standing up and being parents is the solution to less crime.

24 · October 24 at 6:28am

21 Replies



Jacen Rayne Guyer Research does show this, but when you guys care more about butts in seats for funding and less about helping sped kids get their accessibility they need (like 504 for an Autistic child, transitions between IEPs for kids, letting parents know what resources are out there) your strive for 5 is moot for all but making parents send kids to school when they're too sick to be there.

10 · October 24 at 9:04am

6 Replies

[View 21 more comments](#)

St. Joseph School District

October 23 at 5:00pm ·

REDUCE, CUT AND SAVE → The SJSD has reduced non-instructional operating costs to focus dollars on the classroom. Since July 1, 2015, \$2.5 million has been cut from operating costs. This includes reducing administrative and operations staff, eliminating instructional support positions, and reducing budgets for supplies and equipment. We've also continued building improvements to save operations costs, such as replacing lighting fixtures to save 19% on annual electric costs, re...

[See More](#)


Like

Comment

Erika-Matthew Spillman-Conard, Jeanne Sample, Gary McClurg and 65 others like this.

[Top Comments](#)

44 Shares



Steven Dill Lets do averages. The sjsd states on a \$100,000 home the increase would be \$18.16 per month. In July, sewer rates went up and average of \$6.65 per month. In May, KCPL raised rates an average of \$4 per month.

See more of St. Joseph School District on Facebook

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October 23 at 5:00am ·

HELP FOR KIDS → Sadly, about 25% of SJSD students have experienced extreme abuse, neglect and negative life experiences which, in turn, hampers their brain development. To help those students move forward, Prop 1, on the ballot Nov 7, will allow the SJSD to hire additional school psychologists to help these children. #SJSDForward #SJSDProud Learn about Prop 1: <https://www.sjkd,k12.mo.us/Page/27545>

[Like](#) [Comment](#)

Willie Christman, Cindy L. Gibson, Donna Barmann and 128 others like this. [Top Comments](#)

[52 Shares](#)

Lori Hermann Cooper The hatefulness and, quite frankly, the ignorance in some of these comments is so infuriating. I get it, there are some people who will vote no on Prop 1, no matter the information presented and there are some who will find a way to poke holes and crit... [See More](#)

27 · October 23 at 8:44pm

[33 Replies](#)

Aimee Wilson It is amazing how little people know about the education system and the struggles our children have today. Teachers are expected to wear many hats. Is that sometimes the hat of a counselor? It sure is. Mental health has become such a huge issue in our ... [See More](#)

18 · October 24 at 4:04pm

[View 38 more comments](#)**St. Joseph School District**

October 22 at 5:00pm ·

KEEP TALENTED TEACHERS → We've lost talented teachers to districts in

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6.9K Views

Like

Comment

Share

Greg Prussman, Heidi Morris Tipton, Sharon Jeffries Patton and 106 others like this. [Top Comments](#)

64 Shares



Eli Garr So true, so many have left. We have got to quit shooting ourselves in the foot. These are real families! It is time to move forward. EVERYONE here had the opportunity to participate in the plan for the district. Be the change!

10 · October 22 at 6:21pm

[39 Replies](#)



Susan Burton If it is for the kids then quit threatening to cut teachers, make the cuts at the top to balance the budget and live with in it. We all have to live within our budgets. And btw, why are you going to ask for a \$100 million dollar bond in Nov. of '18 or April '19 after this historical tax hike?

9 · October 22 at 6:02pm

[View 23 more comments](#)



St. Joseph School District

October 22 at 5:00am ·

WE'RE NEXT TO LAST→ 87th out of 88 - that's where the students/administrator ratio of the SJSD ranks when compared to all school districts in NWMO. Recent claims by some residents about having too many administrators compared to other districts is just wrong. It's important to know the truth as you become more informed about Prop 1, on the ballot Nov 7th. [#SJSDForward](#) [#SJSDProud](#) Learn about Prop 1: <https://www.sjsd.k12.mo.us/Page/27545>

LIST OF DISTRICTS:

NEW YORK R-IV

SPIC... [See More](#)



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I WILL VOTE NO.

44 · October 22 at 11:18am

[15 Replies](#)

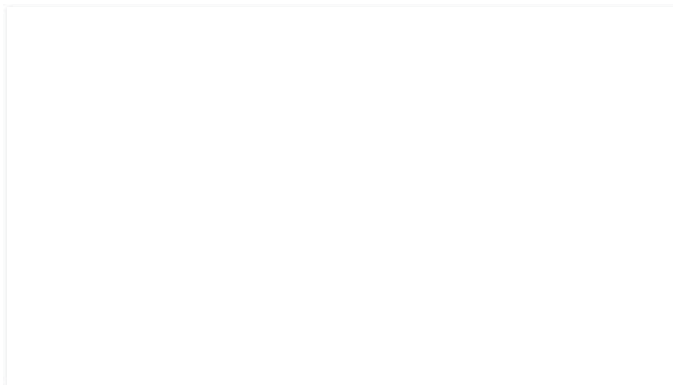
Bonnie Elaine Definitely NO!!! The sjsd needs to be held accountable. Our kids school lunches are a joke, so I decided to bring my daughter food and was told she can't have outside food. Are you kidding me??!!!! I will not be told what my daughter can have for lunch... [See More](#)

25 · October 22 at 9:34am

[20 Replies](#)[View more comments](#)**St. Joseph School District**

October 21 at 5:00am · · ·

LEARN THE FACTS → "In order to attract & retain top talent to this community we have to have great schools. If our schools are succeeding then our town is succeeding." [#SJSDForward](#) [#SJSDProud](#)
Learn about Prop 1: <https://www.sjkd.k12.mo.us/Page/27545>



2.5K Views

[Like](#)[Comment](#)[Share](#)

Moni Jackson, Valerie Brandt, Luke McCoy and 40 others like this.

[Top Comments](#)[35 Shares](#)

Toby Lawrence Paul Woolard is one of the best character people I know. He has been in two local high schools. His perspective is key. He's in the trenches everyday and one of the best high school football coaches that has coached in St Joseph. That ineffective agency is the only hope for kids to have a chance to contribute to your town and be successful in the workforce.

6 · 20 hrs



Steven Dill Come sjsd really a video with a member of the school administration and the membership recruiter for the saint Joseph chamber of commerce?

1 · October 28 at 8:32pm

[4 Replies](#)[View 4 more comments](#)**St. Joseph School District**

October 28 at 5:00pm · · ·

See more of St. Joseph School District on Facebook

or

2.1K Views

[Like](#) [Comment](#) [Share](#)

Adrienne Waggoner, Lou Humbard, Lanka Luker and 35 others like this. [Top Comments](#)

[25 Shares](#)

Chester Brown The voters are not the one punishing the students and teachers, it's the board and their lack of knowledge and control of money, so blaming the voters is not a way to help get votes

4 · October 28 at 5:54pm



Hannah Elisabeth Wallace I would not move to St Joseph if somebody paid me 1000000! Crime rate is way up and schools are no better. My mom has lived there for the past 13 years and it's only gotten worse over time. There's a reason people call it dirty Jo. No thanks

22 hrs

[View 8 more comments](#)

Album Apple Seed Prize Patrol 2017



St. Joseph School District added 16 new photos.

October 20 at 2:24pm ·

PRIZE PATROL → 18 innovative classroom ideas will be funded with Apple Seed Grants from the SJSD Foundation. Teachers & staff submit their innovative ideas for consideration for the annually awarded grants. The SJSD Foundation is a 501(C)(3) charity that is funded by donations from our community & alumni. [American Family Insurance](#) has made generous donations, over the past several years, that provided for an increase in the number of grants awarded.



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or

4 Shares



Kristie Simpson Arthur These programs are available because of the creative, innovative administrators and teachers working together to create a better academic programs for children.

1 · October 22 at 6:46am



Jenny Workman Congrat Bailey
October 20 at 2:55pm

**St. Joseph School District**

October 20 · ·

RT & RON AGREE → "Proposition 1 will allow us to attract new businesses to the community & retain qualified teachers here in the St. Joseph School District." #SJSDForward #SJSDProud
Learn about Prop 1: <https://www.sjkd.k12.mo.us/Page/27545>

2K Views

Like

Comment

Share

Lynnea Wootten, Valerie Brandt, Korey Massey and 36 others like this.

[Top Comments](#)

27 Shares



Dean Penn I am sure a new business coming to town will like to know that their property tax will be going up by 39 percent. And that new businesses personal property tax will also be going up 39 percent. This tax is forever. As a small business owner here in St. Joseph this will raise my property tax 4,000.00 dollars. You can bet i will be voting NO on this new tax!

5 · 18 hrs



Rom Dazme Please, list all the new great businesses that are dying to settle here, and how much money are they ready to invest here. Also, I don't want to retain teachers who don't want to be here. I was taught that you should always let people be free. If money... [See More](#)

1 · 17 hrs

[View 13 more comments](#)**St. Joseph School District**

October 19 at 5:00pm ·

KEEP QUALITY TEACHERS → Moving forward the SJSD has to retain our
excellent teachers. Prop 1 on the ballot Nov 7th will keep us from doing that.

See more of St. Joseph School District on Facebook

or

[Like](#)[Comment](#)

Steve Marks, Steve Parks, Megan Lowe and 42 others like this.

[Top Comments](#)[38 Shares](#)

James Hosler I'm voting yes! I've been so happy with the teachers at our sons' school. I trust the SJSD to invest this money wisely and continue the excellence!

8 · October 19 at 5:38pm

[5 Replies](#)

Bonnie Elaine Nope!!! I have only experienced less than a handful of teachers that actually did their job with professionalism.

1 · October 22 at 10:51am

[View 3 more comments](#)**St. Joseph School District**

October 17 at 5:00pm ·

SJSD BELOW MO AVG → \$791.15 - that's the amount the SJSD is BELOW the Missouri state average on spending per child per year. Recent claims by some residents are not accurate and it's important to know the truth as you become more informed about Prop 1, on the ballot Nov 7th. In 2016, SJSD spent \$9,645.48 per student, lower than the state average of \$10,436.63. Proposition 1 will bring needed resources so St. Joseph students have as many opportunities as other students in the Kansas City area. See the MO Dept of Elementary and Secondary report: <http://bit.ly/2hNACg0>

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Like Comment

Andrew Donaldson, Susan Smith, JoAnn Wann and 93 others like this. [Top Comments](#)

103 Shares



Christy Newkirk Harrison There would be more operating money in the budget right now if we weren't paying money to find a new superintendent or why do we have an assistant superintendent?? I come from a MUCH larger school district and they didn't have an assistant superintende... [See More](#)

40 · October 17 at 7:31pm

[41 Replies](#)



Jim Langley Until the current school board is removed from office and a full public accounting has been made for the \$30,000,000 taken by the Colgan Cartel, asking for this is a joke in very bad taste, and an insult to taxpayers intelligence.

32 · October 17 at 9:28pm

[14 Replies](#)

[View more comments](#)



St. Joseph School District added 4 new photos.

October 17 at 5:00am · Saint Joseph, MO ·

SWEET TASTE OF READING → Proposition 1, on the ballot Nov. 7th, includes the addition of two reading interventionists for the SJSD to help ensure kids are reading at grade level. Recently, Eugene Field Elementary School celebrated reading through the One Book, One School initiative. Every student received the same book, *Chocolate Touch*. Each class, from kindergarten to sixth grade, will read the book and have age-appropriate activities and discussion, allowing every student and teacher to share in this experience together. #SJSDForward #SJSDProud

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Like

Comment

Steve Marks, Connie Haynes, Megan McCamy and 42 others like this. [Top Comments](#)

2 Shares



Cindy Thomas Newton Apparently, nobody is paying taxes on their homes, or they would say No way ! Kids can learn to read without a bunch of expensive crap.

October 19 at 1:17am



Bonnie Elaine Nope. Our kids didn't even get the air in all schools as they promised when we passed that ballet a few years ago!!

October 22 at 10:55am

[View 9 more comments](#)



St. Joseph School District added 9 new photos — at [Missouri Theater and Missouri Theater Building](#).

October 16 at 6:26pm · Saint Joseph, MO ·

SETTING SAIL → All SJSD 4th, 5th & 6th graders experienced the descriptive power of music at the [Saint Joseph Symphony](#), with musical selections about water, the ocean and pirates. This is just one way the SJSD is connecting with the community to provide unique opportunities for students and spark an interest in the arts. Prop 1, on the ballot Nov. 7th, would provide funding to increase options for after school programs. [#SJSDForward](#) [#SJSDProud](#)

Read more about the plan here: <http://bit.ly/2usE87A>



See more of St. Joseph School District on Facebook

or



Vince Garcia Don't see where teachers are gaining a raise. I do see a lot of alphabets and numbers but not in English understandable explanations.

2 · October 16 at 6:56pm



Dawnelle McClain Oh, and guess what? Parents can take them to experience the arts for a lot less money than what you are trying to get!

2 · October 17 at 1:41pm

[View 6 more comments](#)



St. Joseph School District added 4 new photos from

October 16 at 5:00am.

October 16 at 5:00am · ·

THINK IT THROUGH, ACT IT OUT! Fifth graders are learning to put history in context through drama and discussion. The students at Eugene Field are learning about the Civil Rights Movement. They have just finished reading *Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963* and will be seeing *We Shall Not be Moved* at the Coterie Theatre. Before seeing the production, students had a chance to do some drama, creative expression and discussion with the Coterie teaching artist Martin Buchanan.



Like

Comment

Jay Martin, JoLynn Huwe Venneman, Brigitte Lindstrom and 40 others like this.

[Top Comments](#)

[1 Share](#)



Tina Saliger How come Pickett schools never on here

October 19 at 12:20pm



St. Joseph School District Tina, we visit schools as we hear about events at those schools. We posted some excellent pictures from the first day of school at Pickett, but it's difficult to get out to every school on

See more of St. Joseph School District on Facebook

or

October 15 at 5:00pm ·

FORWARD TO A BETTER FUTURE → Prop 1, on the ballot Nov 7th, will help our students and teachers by providing additional supplies and materials and create a level playing field for our kids when compared with other area school districts. Prop 1 also provides for quality professional development for teachers and staff.

[#SJSDForward](#) [#SJSDProud](#)



Like

Comment

Heather Abernathy Emmendorfer, Kathy Martin, Rebecca Evinger and 99 others like this.

[Top Comments](#)

46 Shares



Stan Bigelow People want better jobs? You have to have better schools. Companies looking to move into a city look at several things. One is how strong the school system is. The entire system! Several things need to happen before I will vote yes on a school tax. (1) Release the total Investigation . (2) Put a Sunset clause on the tax.

15 · October 16 at 11:50am

[5 Replies](#)



Valleria Morris Steele The St. Joseph School District is proposing a 39% tax increase, the largest in St. Joseph history!

No sunset. No real plan. Vote NO on November 7.

13 · October 16 at 5:21pm

[2 Replies](#)

[View 42 more comments](#)

[St. Joseph School District](#) added 11 new photos

See more of St. Joseph School District on Facebook

or



+8

Like

Comment

Cailey Auxier-Carlson, Meredith Orth, Joe Mallot and 68 others like this. [Top Comments](#)

[19 Shares](#)

Merle Brewer Why are we now posting pictures of the kids. Won't work you can not guilt me into voting yes. Shame on you. Shame on the SJSD. Shame on the supporters Butch Smith. You were right they will pit kids against their parents just to get this passed

4 · October 17 at 12:34pm · Edited



Eli Garr This isn't just about the proposition. This is about the what goes on in the district like it always has been. Look back, this is a standard post about the cool things going on. And it will continue to do it after the 7th. So GOOD FOR THEM highlighting the awesome things teachers and students do! #SJSDproud

2 · Yesterday at 11:30am

[3 Replies](#)[View 5 more comments](#)[See More](#)

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